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804CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT SED Domination of Police Force
in Saxony-Anhalt

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SUPPLEMENT

ATTACHMENT 1 list

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1. At a meeting of SED delegates from the police district Halle-Merseburg, held in Merseburg in September 1946, Police President Besenbruch made a speech on "The Position of the SED in the Police Force". Besenbruch explained that the purpose of his speech was to define the task of the SED cells within the police, not in his capacity as police president, but as a SED party member, and that it was the party's wish that this meeting mark the beginning of a new phase in the political work of the police force. "We Marxists are fully aware that we can make organizational decisions and draw practical conclusions only if we are conscious of the over-all political picture, no matter how condensed a picture it is." The SED, fighting for scientific socialism, has assigned the police force the task of making it possible to seize power and spread socialism as fast as the situation and the development and maturity of the working class permit. For the benefit of those members of the police force who may have been infected by the teachings of formal democracy, Besenbruch pointed out that there is no reason for them to conceal their ultimate aim, since leading party members, such as Ulbricht, are well aware of the importance of this goal. In its relations to the other parties, the SED pays lip service to democracy, but among themselves, SED members must realize that the political aim of the SED is to spread socialism and to win over the majority of the people and the police. If the fight for socialism failed in the past, it was due to the splitting up of the workers; however, it will succeed in the future, thanks to the new merger of the working class. In order to proceed properly and to take advantage of the police as an instrument in this fight, it is necessary to consider the past, to draw practical conclusions, and to base future decisions and campaigns on past experiences.
2. Although the SED has become an organic unit and has stood its ground during the past elections, there are still undercurrents, and much work will be needed to weld it into a smoothly functioning party with a recognized, uniform policy. This is especially true in regard

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to the police force, which attracts public attention and is the only organization permitted to carry arms, the only instrument of power to which the working class has direct access. According to Besenbruch, neither in the SED nor in the police force do individuals or small groups wield power; only democratic decisions of the entire membership are binding. A real German mass movement will grow out of these "democratic" deliberations and the ensuing democratic decisions, based on the will of the entire membership; this mass movement will make it possible for the SED to master all problems and sweep away all resistance. Differences of opinion might increase the activities of the party and speed up decisions; however, once the problems have been fully discussed and decisions have been adopted by the majority of party members, then these decisions must be accepted and carried through faithfully by every member, regardless of his personal opinions. Only thus will the party become more powerful. "Within the shortest possible time we shall establish a police force which, as regards reliability in the political sense as understood by the SED, cannot be surpassed and whose final goal is the merger of socialism." Every member, whatever his position, is subject to party discipline; every member of the police force is, on the one hand, a party member, on the other hand, an official of the administrative agency. Although there are two authorities, every true socialist must realize that he owes the highest moral and political allegiance to the party, since he joined it voluntarily. Those who wonder whether loyalty to the party and to the government agency may be conflicting must bear in mind that the party is the highest political and moral authority. The party orders its members to carry through certain measures in their official capacity, and these directives must be fulfilled faithfully by the party members. This means that although the party does not act directly, it is, nevertheless, the decisive factor, even when it comes to the specialized and executive work of the police force.

3. In addition, this SED authority over the police is supported by the fact that each party member, no matter what his position, may be called upon to account for his actions before the party, although he is not responsible to the party in his official capacity. The party will never ask the police president to account for his actions but only the party member, who is bound to give an accounting, in view of his party allegiance. Those not willing to accept these facts and who think they can go against the wishes of the party, have no place in the party. If the SED decides that Lieutenant "X" has acted against the interest of the party, he cannot remain in the party. If he wants to remain in the party, he must bow to the will of the party and give up his post. If he tries to keep his post, then we know where he stands and can try to have him removed by his superiors. It is better to have all enemies of party discipline outside the party so that we can fight them openly and they cannot hide behind their party books.
4. Besenbruch declared that he is well aware that the proper functioning of the police force requires each member to carry through the orders and directives of his superiors; no party member need be

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worried that he is favoring reactionary measures by obeying orders, as long as the SED police cells are functioning. Besenbruch asked, "How could an officer who is a member of the party dare give an order or carry through measures harmful to the party, when he knows he may be called to account by the party an hour later?" The weakest point thus far has been that the SED cells have not exercised a tight enough control over the most important political directives to their members. If an order harmful to the interests of the party is given to an SED man by a superior who does not belong to the party, it will simply be necessary to settle the matter on a higher level.

5. Besenbruch explained that the police force, as a whole, is represented by the employees' council and not by the SED cells; this means that the employees' council is responsible for dismissing and hiring people, and that employees' delegates are not bound by the directives of the party as long as they are not members of the party. Although it cannot call to account the entire employees' council, the party cell is, nevertheless, in a position to enforce its will by demanding that those employees' delegates who are party members follow party directives. Inasmuch as the police force consists of 1100 men, 800 of whom are SED members, it stands to reason that the majority of the delegates should be party members, who should see to it that the wishes of the party are carried through. Although at least 50 percent of the administrative police are SED members, SED delegates are in the minority. This means that SED members have voted for candidates of other parties and that hostile elements have infiltrated the party.

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ATTACHMENT

Party Affiliations of Members of Police Force, Halle
(Status as of 1 December 1946)

	<u>SED</u>	<u>LDP</u>	<u>CDU</u>	<u>No Party</u>
<u>Police Force</u>				
Leading Officials	20	2	4	-
Patrolmen	595	74	43	6
Clerks	22	5	6	5
Others	1	-	-	-
<u>Detective Force</u>				
Leading Officials	6	-	2	-
Detectives	51	5	2	2
Clerks	64	3	3	4
Others	-	-	-	-
<u>Detective Force - Branch Offices</u>				
Leading Officials	4	-	-	-
Detectives	51	-	-	-
Clerks	52	1	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-
<u>Administrative Office</u>				
Leading Officials	4	2	1	-
Officials	6	4	3	2
Clerks	37	15	6	15
Others	25	1	-	34
Total	938	112	70	68
Percentage	78.9%	9.4%	5.9%	5.8%

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